FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 7-22-68

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AM (Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

Criminal Court Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE will hear trial of JAMES EARL RAY. Memphis indices disclose no pertinent derogatory data concerning BATTLE. Memphis indices disclose Airtel submitted to Bureau in Bufile 44-30948 captioned "Deputy (FNU) BONNANO, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, Sheriff's Office; UNSUB, Jailer, East Baton Rouge Parish Jail, East Baton Rouge, Louisiana; UNSUB, Jailer, Memphis Police Department Jail, Memphis, Tennessee; Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Shelby County Criminal Court, Division #3, Memphis, Tennessee; DOUGLAS LANIER - VICTIM, CR." This Airtel was RUC communication from Memphis. Victim instant case alleged Judge BATTLE violated his constitutional rights.

Another reference in Memphis file disclosed Airtel dated 11-1-65 submitted to Bureau under caption "W. PRESTON BATTLE, Judge, Shelby County Court, Memphis, Tennessee; GEORGE EDWARD DRAPER, Public Defender, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee; WILLIAM D. HAYNES, Assistant Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tenn.; Lt. JAMES P. TALLEY, Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee; HAROLD WARD YATES - VICTIM, CR." In this Civil Rights complaint, victim YATES alleged that Judge BATTLE refused to let him say anything during course of trial and alleged BATTLE violated his rights by this and the excessive sentence which was given him.

In addition, [redacted] advised he has known Judge BATTLE personally for 25 years. He described BATTLE as being respected both socially and professionally in the community. Judge BATTLE further described as Judge who makes all attorneys "toe the line" in his courtroom and is strict in regard to proceedings. [redacted] advised in confidence that he had never heard a word against Judge BATTLE's character, reputation, integrity, or ethics as a Judge.

44-38861-4911

JUL 31 15 38 PM '68 REC-14

(3) BUREAU (Enc. 2)
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(4)

JUL 24 1968

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

JUL 30 1968

Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____ _____
(Priority)

ME 44-1987

Further, for the assistance of the Bureau, there is submitted herewith an article which appeared in the Mid-South Edition of the "Memphis Press Scimitar" on 7-19-68, which further described Judge BATTLE.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge